

1894-95. The Small Roman Surcharges.History of the Issue.

These Surcharges were prepared by the Siam Mercantile Press and are characterised principally by the remarkable regularity of the overprints & the absence of type-varieties, while printing varieties are extraordinarily numerous. It is not yet certain whether the whole series represents different phases of a single setting, as do the large Roman Surcharges, or whether the type was reset for each Surcharge.

The first consignment of these Surcharges consisted of 1000 sheets (12000 stamps) of each of two values, 1 Att and 2 Att, and both were Setting B. They were delivered to the Post Office on October 12th 1894.



The second consignment consisted of the same values, less widely spaced, (i.e., Setting A in each case), and were delivered on December 29th 1894. The numbers printed were 500,040 of each value (4167 sheets).



On July 23rd 1895, 500,040 stamps (4167 sheets) of a new value, 10 Att, on 24 Att, were delivered, overprinted in the same type, to provide for the new rate of postage to the Straits Settlements.



In every case the Surcharge was set up to overprint 60 stamps at a time, in a pane of five horizontal rows of twelve stamps each, so that each sheet had to be passed through the press twice to complete the surcharging.